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Appendix II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 489 asked by Sri N. K. Palanisami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 24th September 1958, page 607 supra.]

Facilities provided for the Fishermen living near Nagapattinam sea coast.

Nagapattinam sea coast may be roughly taken as comprising the following fishing villages: (1) Serudoor, (2) Velankanni, (3) Kallar, (4) Akkarapettai, (5) Keechankuppam, (6) Nambiarnagar, (7) Samandanpettai and (8) Nagore.

The following is a brief account of the facilities provided to the fishermen of this area:—

(1) *Marketing facilities.*—The fishermen of Akkarapettai, Keechankuppam and Kallar were finding it difficult to market their catches and to come to Nagapattinam for that purpose as they had to cross Kaduvayar river by means of a ferry boat. After the construction of the Kaduvayar bridge with lift span, this difficulty of crossing the river which they were doing for years was solved as they freely make use of the bridge now. They are able to come to Nagapattinam at any time they like and they are getting better prices for their fish from the merchants as much expenditure on transport of fish is curtailed.

(2) *Fish godown.*—For the proper curing and storage of fish, two fish godowns have been constructed, one at Akkarapettai and another at Serudoor at a cost of Rs. 4,000 each. The Government have given Rs. 2,000 as subsidy and Rs. 2,000 as loan to Fishermen Co-operative Society which has to repay in ten annual instalments.

(3) *Training of fishermen.*—For training the fishermen in the handling of mechanised fishing boats and using the latest methods of deep sea fishing equipment, the Government have opened one Training Centre at Nagapattinam for the east coast. Originally it was proposed that this centre should work at Nagapattinam for 6 months and at Madras for 6 months but now it is decided that the Centre should work at Nagapattinam permanently. After the establishment of this training centre, the fishermen who were reluctant to take Nylon yarn are now coming forward to take to Nylon and other synthetic yarn for their nets.

(4) *Supply of Pablo boat.*—One Pablo boat with Terylene gill nets was given to the Akkarapettai Society by the Tanjore District Fishermen's Co-operative Federation. The boat is working

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well. The demand for these boats is increasing. The boat on an average lands every month about 2,000 lb. worth of fish, valued at Rs. 500.

(5) *Loans.*—Long-term loans for the purchase of Craft and Tackle were given to Akkarapettai Society and Nambiarnagar Society. The requests of other societies for such loans are also being considered. The Akkarapettai Society was given Rs. 10,725 and the Nambiarnagar Society Rs. 14,125. The amount is recoverable in 36 instalments at 5¼ per cent interest. The collection of the amount is postponed in the off-season.

(6) *Relief measures.*—Subsidised yarn and coir for the failure of the last Kola fishery was given to all the above villages to the tune of Rs. 9,500. Only half the cost of the yarn and coir was collected from the fishermen. Fourteen bales of 20s ; 5½ bales of 10s and 5½ bales of 6s and 60 bundles of coir yarn were thus distributed.

(7) *Co-operative Societies.*—All the above villages have been brought under the fold of the Co-operative movement except Nagore. There are 171 members in Akkarapettai Society ; 120 members in Nambiarnagar Society ; 73 in Samanthanpettai Society ; 96 members in Velankanni ; and 27 members in Serudoor Society. Efforts are being made to enrol more members. The question of starting Fishermen Co-operative Societies at Nagore and Vettaikaranaruppu is under consideration.

(8) *Supply of milk powder.*—Five hundred and twenty lb. of milk powder received from the Rotary Club, Tanjore, was distributed to the children of fishermen during the time of Kola fishery failure. Fair price shops were also run at Akkarapettai, Nambiarnagar and Serudoor to tide over the crisis when the fishermen were in distress.

(9) *Weather warning signals.*—Weather warnings received from the Meteorological Office, Madras, about the forecast of squally weather were communicated to the fishermen for their safety. There are also proposals to put up signals at various fishing villages for alerting the fishermen about squally weather and storms.

(10) *Fishing Harbour, Ice-cum-Cold Storage plant and fish-meal plant.*—There is a proposal to construct a fishing harbour at Nagapattinam and also to put up a fish-meal factory in that area. Under the Plan programme the Government have recently approved the proposal of the Director of Fisheries to set up a three-ton ice plant and cold storage at Nagapattinam during the current financial year. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 1,30,000 non-recurring and Rs. 51,300 recurring.

(11) *School building.*—A school building started under Local Development works to meet the requirements of the fishermen of Akkarapettai is nearing completion.